



CITY OF PLYMOUTH

---

# INTERIM REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1939

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CITY OF PLYMOUTH

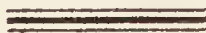


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TO THE LORD MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS  
OF THE CITY OF PLYMOUTH.

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1939.

Upon instructions from the Ministry of Health, with a view to economy, this is an interim report. The information and statistics normally included in the Annual Report are prepared and retained in the Department, and they will be available for the complete report at the termination of the war.

Many public health projects have necessarily had to be deferred until happier times, and the organisation of the Department has been adapted to the needs of the national war effort.

It is with pleasure that I take the opportunity of recording my appreciation of the loyal work of my staff, including the personnel of the Casualty Services.

I am, My Lord Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "J. Leeson", with a horizontal line underneath.

*Medical Officer of Health.*

TOWN HALL, STONEHOUSE,  
PLYMOUTH.

*September, 1940.*



## Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area (in acres) ... ..	9,515 (land and inland water)
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1939), according to Rate Books ... ..	41,445
Number of Uninhabited Houses in the City at 31.12.39 (including 119 scheduled for demolition) ...	861
Rateable Value of the City ... ..	£1,901,317
Sum represented by a Penny rate ... ..	£7,922

*Social Conditions.* Unemployed persons in the City :—

	<i>Men.</i>	<i>Women.</i>	<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
December, 1939 ...	1,650	978	88	144	2,860
December, 1938 ...	5,075	1 008	58	124	6,265
December, 1937 ...	5,567	899	111	194	6,771
December, 1936 ...	6,354	1,022	163	208	7,747
December, 1935 ...	7,157	1,057	214	230	8,658

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population (mid-1939) :—

		For Birth-rate purposes ...	...	...	220,800	
		For Death-rate purposes ...	...	...	215,500	
<i>Live Births.</i>		<i>Total.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>		
Legitimate ...	3,249	1,666	1,583		Birth-rate per 1,000	
Illegitimate ...	197	100	97		of the estimated	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>		resident population	
	3,446	1,766	1,680		.....15.6	
<i>Stillbirths.</i>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>			
Legitimate ...	120	69	51		Rate per 1,000 total	
Illegitimate ...	7	1	6		(live and still) births	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>		.....35.5	
	127	70	57			
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>			
DEATHS ...	2,719	1,398	1,321		Death-rate per 1,000	
					of the estimated	
					resident population	
					.....12.61	

Deaths from Puerperal Causes (headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's short list) :—

	<i>Deaths.</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births.</i>
No. 29. Puerperal Sepsis ...	2	0.55
No. 30. Other Puerperal causes	9	2.51
		<hr/>
		3.06
		<hr/>

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births ... ..	42.04
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	42.47
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	35.53

# General Provision of Health Services

## AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS—CASUALTY SERVICES.

**Hospitals.** The Council's City (General) Hospital and Mount Gold Orthopædic and Tuberculosis Hospital are included in Class 1 of the Emergency Hospital Service. The bed accommodation of both hospitals was increased by the provision of additional beds supplied partly by the Ministry of Health and partly by the Council. Similar action was taken at the Prince of Wales's Hospital (Greenbank and Devonport Sections).

As a result of Government instructions, at the outbreak of war as many beds as possible in these hospitals were made available for casualties. This was done by sending home all patients who were fit to go, by transferring certain patients to another institution, by erecting additional beds and by restricting further admissions to urgent cases. This was done according to a pre-arranged plan, and within twenty-four hours of the receipt of instructions the hospitals were ready.

The Council increased considerably the normal stocks of medical and surgical supplies, and these were augmented also by issues from the Ministry.

The hospitals have admitted both civilian casualties, Service sick and casualties.

**First Aid and Ambulance Service.** Ten First Aid Units were organised to cover the City, each Unit consisting of a First Aid Post, and a First Aid Party and Ambulance Depôts. In two instances the Post is a mobile one. Much work was entailed in recruiting and training the personnel, altering and equipping premises and organising the Units. This was an entirely novel experience for a Health Department, and credit is due to both the Department Staff and to many private citizens who shared the work.

**Clinic and  
Treatment  
Centres.**

1. INFANT WELFARE CENTRES :  
Town Hall, Stonehouse—4 sessions weekly.  
Beaumont Hut—5 sessions weekly.  
Devonport Park Centre—3 sessions weekly.  
Wolseley Hall Centre, Swilly—2 sessions weekly.  
St. Budeaux Clinic—2 sessions weekly.  
Honicknowle Clinic—1 session weekly.  
Peverell Clinic—1 session weekly.  
Efford Clinic—1 session weekly.
2. SPECIALIST AURAL CLINIC (pre-School and School Children):  
Princess Square School Medical Clinic—2 sessions weekly.
3. SPECIALIST OPHTHALMIC CLINIC (pre-School and School Children):  
Princess Square School Medical Clinic—4 sessions weekly.
4. ANTE-NATAL CLINICS :  
Town Hall, Stonehouse—2 sessions weekly.  
Beaumont Hut—2 sessions weekly.  
Devonport Park Centre—2 sessions weekly.  
Wolseley Hall Centre—2 sessions weekly.  
City Hospital—2 sessions weekly.  
Peverell Clinic—1 session weekly.  
Efford Clinic—1 session weekly.  
St. Budeaux Clinic—1 session weekly.
5. POST-NATAL CLINIC :  
City Hospital—1 session fortnightly.
6. CONSULTANT OBSTETRIC CLINIC :  
City Hospital—1 session fortnightly.
7. TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY :  
Beaumont House Dispensary—  
Adults—2 afternoon sessions weekly.  
Adults—1 evening session weekly.  
Children—1 session weekly.  
Contacts—1 session weekly.  
Special treatment—2 sessions weekly.  
Prince of Wales's Hospital (Devonport Section)—  
1 session weekly.



## DEATHS—ALL AGES, YEAR 1939.

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8. TREATMENT CENTRE (Venereal Diseases) :  
City Hospital, Greenbank, Plymouth—  
For Males—4 sessions weekly (irrigation daily).  
For Females—4 sessions weekly.
9. ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC :  
Mount Gold Hospital—1 session weekly.
10. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION CLINIC :  
Stonehouse Town Hall—1 session weekly.  
Devonport Park Centre—1 session weekly.  
Beaumont Hut—1 session weekly.  
Peverell Centre—1 session weekly.  
St. Budeaux Centre—1 session weekly.  
Efford Centre—1 session weekly.
11. DENTAL CLINIC :  
Beaumont House—Daily.



# Maternity and Child Welfare

REPORT OF SENIOR ASSISTANT MEDICAL OFFICER.

## **Infant Welfare Centres.**

*St. Budeaux.*—At the end of 1938 it was found necessary to increase the number of Infant Welfare sessions, and throughout the year two such sessions have been held each week. The building of our new Centre at St. Budeaux has been postponed indefinitely until the end of the war.

*Crownhill.*—On the 5th of April we took over the Crownhill Welfare Centre from the Devon County and held a weekly session until the 30th of August, when the building used by us was commandeered by A.R.P. Authorities. It was not until the 13th of December that we were able to reopen this Centre in other premises at Honicknowle.

*Peverell.*—This Centre was opened on the 14th of April on the premises of the Hope Baptist Church. The weekly sessions held are one infant welfare, one ante-natal and one diphtheria immunisation. The infant welfare session has been well attended, but the numbers attending the ante-natal session have been disappointing.

*Efford.*—To meet the needs of the people living on the Efford Estate, a Centre was opened there in a Council house on the 14th of April. The house is small and can only accommodate a limited number. Three sessions, an infant welfare, an ante-natal and a diphtheria immunisation, have been held each week, and, thanks to the interest of a retired Health Visitor, a sewing class has been held once a week on a voluntary basis.



INFANTILE MORTALITY.  
Year 1939.

Cause of Death.	Uncertified.	Illegiti- mate.		AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION.																		WARD DISTRIBUTION.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																		
				Under 1 week.		1—2 weeks.		2—3 weeks.		3—4 weeks.		Total under 1 month.		1—3 months.		3—6 months.		6—9 months.		9—12 months.		Total under 1 year.		Compton.	Mutley.	Pennycross.	Laira.	Charles.	Friary.	Sutton.	Vintry.	Drake.	St. Andrew's.	St. Peter's.	Valletort.	Mount Edgcombe.	Molesworth.	St. Budeaux.	Ford.	Nelson.	Keyham.	St. Aubyn.	Stoke	Crownhill (from 1/4/39)	Totals																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																											
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
1. Measles ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—



# Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

## REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

### 1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:—

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	4,262
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	9,231
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included in sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ...	220
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	952
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	178
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	1,807

### 2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ...	1,891
---	-------

### 3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR:—

(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:		
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...		
			149
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:		
	(a)	By owners ...	109
	(b)	By local authority in default of owners ...	Nil
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts:		
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...		
			106
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:		
	(a)	By owners ...	192
	(b)	By local authority in default of owners ...	Nil

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:					
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	9
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	20
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:					
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...		47
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or rooms having been rendered fit	...	...		42
4. HOUSING ACT, 1936. PART IV.—OVERCROWDING.					
(a)	(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year				780
	(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	795
	(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	3,151
(b)	Number of new cases reported during the year	...	...		35
(c)	(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	632
	(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...		3010

#### INSPECTION OF MEAT AND SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

*Carcases inspected and condemned.* The total number of carcasses inspected at the Meat Market and in the private slaughterhouses during the year was 203,863, which were made up as follows:—

Cattle	...	...	...	...	31,312
Sheep and Lambs	...	...	...		127,444
Calves	...	...	...	...	2,607
Pigs	...	...	...	...	42,500



The total weight of meat and offal condemned during the year from animals killed inside and outside the City was 252 tons 4 cwts.

This amount was made up as follows:—

	CATTLE, EXCLUDING COWS		COWS		CALVES		SHEEP		PIGS	
	City	Coun- try	City	Coun- try	City	Coun- try	City	Coun- try	City	Coun- try
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS—										
Whole carcasses ...	5	8	89	78	9	68	119	444	13	166
No. of parts or organs condemned	54	13	4,121	2,053	6	26	280	589	15	357
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY—										
Whole carcasses ...	17	4	216	41	—	1	—	—	2	74
No. of parts or organs condemned	64	9	1,413	673	—	—	—	—	24	2,549

*Meat and other Foods.*—Consequent upon the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, coming into operation on the 1st October, 1939, steps were taken for the registration of premises used in connection with the manufacture or sale of ice-cream or in connection with the preparation or manufacture of sausages or preserved food intended for sale. Up to the end of the year, 10 premises had been registered for the sale or manufacture for the purpose of sale of ice-cream, or the storage of ice-cream intended for sale, and 53 premises were registered for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale.

*Summary of Legal Proceedings.*—The results of prosecutions under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, and the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, in regard to samples obtained during the year, are summarised in the following table:—

<i>Sample No.</i>	<i>Article.</i>	<i>Result of Analysis.</i>	<i>Result of Prosecution.</i>
708	Skimmed Milk	12% added water	Fined 10/—
747	do.	5% do.	Fined £2
748	do.	8% do.	„ £1
749	do.	5% do.	„ £1
756	do.	20% do.	Dismissed on payment of costs, including Analyst's fee
758	do.	8% do.	do.
759	do.	10% do.	do.
774	do.	20% do.	Fined £1
775	do.	6% do.	„ £1
778	Raw Milk	7% do.	„ £4
808	do.	15% do.	„ £2
809	do.	10% do.	„ £2
810	do.	16% do.	„ £2
924	do.	16% deficient in fat	Dismissed on payment of costs, including Analyst's fee
935	do.	15% do.	Fined £2
952	do.	27% do.	„ £2
974	do.	38% do.	„ £3
975	do.	11% do.	„ £1
991	do.	22% do.	„ £2
1016	do.	12% do.	„ £1
1034	do.	12% added water	Case dismissed
1035	do.	17% do.	do.
1101	do.	14% deficient in fat	Fined £2
1102	do.	4% do.	Case dismissed

During the year the Sanitary Inspectors have been called upon to carry out the following National Service duties:—

(1) *Air Raid Precautions.*—Sanitary Inspectors were actively engaged in assisting with the equipping and organising of First Aid Posts in the City.

(2) *Balloon Barrage Centres*.—Contact was made with the Medical Officer of the Royal Air Force, and arrangements were made for the Sanitary Inspectors to inspect the sanitary arrangements at Balloon Barrage Centres. These inspections are continuing, in co-operation with the Service Authorities.

(3) *Billets*.—Certain premises in the City were inspected for the purpose of ascertaining the sanitary arrangements available for troops who might be billeted on the premises, regard also being given to the number of troops the particular premises might accommodate. These duties were carried out in co-operation with the Chief Constable.

(4) *Air Raid Shelters*.—The Sanitary Inspectors gave assistance to the City Engineer by visiting various houses in the City and advising on the most suitable positions for air raid shelters.

#### CREMATION.

Up to the end of 1939 a total of 1,172 cremations were carried out, 374 during the year. Of these 374, 104 were in respect of residents of the City of Plymouth.

# Infectious Diseases

## THE CITY ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

### REPORT OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT.

During the year, 994 cases were admitted, and 925 cases were discharged. There were 40 deaths.

*Scarlet Fever.*—The total number of cases admitted was 410, a decrease of 75 compared with last year. The disease continued to be mild, and severe cases were rare.

The average stay in hospital was 32.9 days.

*Diphtheria.*—There was an increase of 71 cases over the previous year—460 admissions as against 389 in the year 1938. The disease was definitely more severe in type, and 29 deaths occurred.

### VACCINATION.

The following table gives details of vaccinations carried out during the past seven years :—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Births</i>	<i>Primary vaccinations</i>	<i>Percentage of Children vaccinated</i>	<i>Re- vaccinations</i>
1933 ....	3232	1325	41·0	17
1934 ....	3203	1371	42·8	9
1935 ....	3065	1270	41·4	18
1936 ....	3061	1348	44·0	24
1937 ....	3325	1262	37·9	12
1938 ...	3617	1396	38·6	10
1939 ...	3792	1406	37·0	6



## INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED, 1939. WARD DISTRIBUTION.

Diseases.	Total Civilian Cases	Compton.	Mutley.	Pennycross.	Laira.	Charles.	Friary.	Sutton.	Vintry.	Drake.	St. Andrew's.	St. Peter's.	Valletort.	Mount Edgumbe.	Molesworth.	St. Budeaux.	Ford.	Nelson.	Keyham.	St. Aubyn.	Stoke.	Crownhill
Scarlet Fever ... ..	415	11	13	43	24	14	13	12	7	10	4	17	7	25	36	80	14	21	14	29	9	12
Diphtheria ... ..	404	2	7	22	10	21	11	7	15	9	16	11	13	29	38	43	19	42	24	55	5	5
Enteric Fever ... ..	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Pneumonia ... ..	213	5	4	10	12	9	8	8	12	15	8	19	12	5	16	26	6	13	8	10	7	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	43	—	1	—	5	5	—	2	1	—	3	3	1	4	2	4	3	7	—	—	1	1
Measles ... ..	12	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	2
Whooping Cough ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ... ..	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ... ..	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	2	1	4	—	4	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Polio-Encephalitis ... ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ... ..	20	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	10	—	—	2	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	14	1	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	2	—	1	2	—	2	—	2	—	1	—	—
Erysipelas ... ..	66	3	1	4	5	1	3	5	7	5	—	4	1	2	4	5	2	3	4	4	2	1
Tuberculosis—Pulmonary ... ..	193	11	9	13	8	7	13	11	9	6	8	8	10	9	15	10	17	10	13	8	7	1
Non-Pulmonary ... ..	51	1	5	5	3	2	1	3	—	2	3	2	2	3	4	7	1	2	1	3	1	—
Malaria ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Summer Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Totals ... ..	1457	36	41	99	69	64	51	50	53	47	46	66	48	79	119	181	53	114	65	116	35	25



Year	Completed Course of Injections	SCHICK TESTS AFTER COURSE OF INJECTIONS					RE-SCHICK TESTS		IMMUNISED AND SCHICK NEGATIVE CHILDREN REPORTED TO HAVE CONTRACTED DIPHTHERIA	
		Carried Out	Not Read	Nega- tive	Positive	Per cent. Positive	No.	Nega- tive		
										Confirmed
1927	330	264	11	231	22	9	11	11	—	—
1928	296	56	—	50	6	12	6	6	1	3
1929	390	458	—	333	125	27	76	76	—	2
1930	444	511	23	434	54	10	24	24	—	—
1931	1282	527	2	486	39	8	28	28	—	—
1932	1107	1137	10	1008	119	9	43	43	1	—
1933	972	997	9	906	82	8	58	55	3	4
1934	(a) 335	330	9	314	7	2	4	4	—	5
1934	(b) 363	324	17	289	18	5	11	11	—	8
1935	(a) 874	830	28	791	11	1·3	8	8	—	9
1935	(b) 1244	1300	108	1149	43	3·3	10	10	2	5
1936	(a) 662	641	28	609	4	0·65	2	2	3	5
1936	(b) 1104	779	52	702	25	3·4	—	—	4	3
								(c) 3	—	—
1937	(a) 500	506	18	469	19	3·8	11	8	3	—
1937	(b) 1035	1004	69	904	31	3·3	1	1	3	—
1938	(a) 430	300	12	273	15	5·2	10	10	5	5
1938	(b) 707	928	56	844	28	3·2	9	9	6	4
1939	(a) 568	425	29	391	5	1·2	2	2	15	4
1939	(b) 615	666	74	576	16	2·7	1	1	14	4
								(c) 4	—	—
Totals ...	13258	11983	555	10759	669	5·85	315	309	67	61

(a) At M. and C.W. Centres.

(b) At Schools.

(c) Immunised elsewhere.

# Venereal Diseases

## REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER IN CHARGE.

The Table below gives a ready method of comparison over the last three years:—

### NEW CASES

	<i>Syphilis</i>				<i>Chancroid</i>				<i>Gonorrhoea</i>				<i>Non-Venereal Disease</i>				<i>Totals</i>			
	<i>Plymouth</i>	<i>Devon</i>	<i>Cornwall</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Plymouth</i>	<i>Devon</i>	<i>Cornwall</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Plymouth</i>	<i>Devon</i>	<i>Cornwall</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Plymouth</i>	<i>Devon</i>	<i>Cornwall</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Plymouth</i>	<i>Devon</i>	<i>Cornwall</i>	<i>Totals</i>
Year																				
1937	85	7	7	99	5	—	1	6	247	27	38	312	256	17	24	297	593	51	70	714
1938	88	7	6	101	5	—	2	7	221	30	40	291	235	23	32	290	549	60	80	689
1939	98	12	12	122	7	—	2	9	214	20	28	262	215	23	26	264	534	55	68	657



**Syphilis.** Twice as many cases of infectious syphilis were dealt with as in the previous year, 31 against 15 in 1938. This has been the common experience of many clinics and is attributable to the considerable movement of large numbers of the population, preceding and subsequent to the declaration of War. Even so, the total is very small for a large area around, and including, a Garrison town with a large floating population.

**Chancroid.** Nine cases were noted during the year. All these responded well to treatment with Sulphapyridine.

**Gonorrhoea.** During the year, 262 new cases presented themselves for diagnosis and treatment.

The routine use of Sulphapyridine in men and Uleron in women in the treatment of this disease has completely revolutionised the outlook. Only two or three years ago, Gonorrhœa was an obstinate disease ; complications, relapse and chronicity were common.

To-day, almost every case responds readily, clinical cure occurs early, complications are rare, and the period of treatment in males is cut down by a half. The duration of treatment for men was 36 days, including tests of cure. After these tests have been completed satisfactorily, patients are kept under observation for at least two months, and only very few relapses have been noted.

The period of infectivity is thus greatly shortened, and there is no doubt that a general reduction in the number of new cases may be expected within the next few years.

In spite of early disappearance of symptoms, the defaulter rate was only 14.60 per cent.

Children tolerate the drug extremely well, and the treatment of Gonococcal Vulvo-Vaginitis by similar methods is equally satisfactory.

Generally speaking, women are more intolerant of Sulphapyridine than men, and local treatment combined with three or four courses of Uleron rapidly reduces the infectivity, although "Cure" takes considerably longer.

# Tuberculosis

## REPORT OF THE TUBERCULOSIS OFFICER.

**Notifications.** During the year 1939, 245 cases were notified. This number was composed of 194 Pulmonary (108 males and 86 females) and 51 Non-Pulmonary (33 males and 18 females).

This figure shows a slight decline compared with the previous year.

The following table shows the number of primary notifications of tuberculosis since the year 1931 :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Pulmonary.</i>	<i>Non-Pulmonary.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1931 ...	320	62	382
1932 ...	273	70	343
1933 ...	253	58	311
1934 ...	246	63	309
1935 ...	217	54	271
1936 ...	204	51	255
1937 ...	225	52	277
1938 ...	209	42	251
1939 ...	194	51	245

**Attendances.** The number of attendances of patients at the Tuberculosis Dispensaries during the year, excluding those who attended for X-ray examination, totalled 9,233.

## MOUNT GOLD TUBERCULOSIS AND ORTHOPÆDIC HOSPITAL.

### REPORT OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT.

**Pulmonary Tuberculosis Section.** The following table gives statistics for the past year :—

	1939.
Admissions ... ..	151
Discharges ... ..	127
Deaths ... ..	50

Orthopaedic  
Section.

The general arrangements for the work of this section of the hospital remains unchanged from previous years. The admissions continue to show an increase.

				1939.
<i>Plymouth Cases.</i>				
Tuberculosis Department	...	...	...	44
M. & C.W. Department	...	...	...	9
School Medical Department	...	...	...	21
Other Plymouth cases	...	...	...	90
				164
<i>Non-Plymouth Cases.</i>				
Devon County Council	...	...	...	48
Cornwall County Council	...	...	...	9
Exeter City	...	...	...	2
Devon Association for Cripples' Aid	...	...	...	43
Other cases	...	...	...	56
Total Non-Plymouth cases	...	...	...	158
Grand total of admissions	...	...	...	322
Total discharges	...	...	...	332

DIDWORTHY SANATORIUM.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT.

Admissions.

Total admissions : 153.  
75 men, 69 women, 6 boys and 3 girls, of whom 149 were sent from Plymouth, and 2 men and 2 women from Cornwall.

Bed  
Occupation.

Total patient days ... 32,147  
Average daily bed occupation ... 80.074  
Average length of stay of cases discharged during the year ... 252.6 days  
Total bed patient days ... 10,534  
Which represents 32.72 per cent. patients in bed daily.

# The City General Hospital

## REPORT OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT.

The following table summarises certain statistics of a general nature on the work of the City Hospital :—

(1)	Total number of admissions	...	...	...	3986
(2)	Number of discharges	...	...	...	3591
(3)	Number of deaths	...	...	...	576
(4)	Patients treated to a conclusion	...	...	...	4167
(5)	Duration of stay of patients treated to a conclusion :				
	(a) Under four weeks	...	...	...	3142
	(b) Over four weeks and under thirteen weeks	...	...	...	694
	(c) Thirteen weeks or more	...	...	...	351
(6)	In-patient days	...	...	...	158,139
(7)	Average duration of stay	...	...	...	37.9 days
(8)	Number of available beds	...	...	...	635
(9)	Number of beds occupied :				
	(a) Average	...	...	...	417
	(b) Highest—on 20/2/39	...	...	...	548
	(c) Lowest—on 23-24/9/39	...	...	...	229
(10)	Number of women confined in Hospital	...	...	...	460
(11)	Number of live births	...	...	...	437
(12)	Number of stillbirths	...	...	...	32
(13)	Deaths of newly born (under 4 weeks)	...	...	...	21
(14)	Number of maternal deaths	...	...	...	3
(15)	Number of surgical operations	...	...	...	1437
(16)	Number of X-ray investigations	...	...	...	2013
(17)	Number of pathological investigations	...	...	...	5307
(18)	Number of patients treated in Dental Dept.	...	...	...	98

In order to increase the number of beds thus available on a War basis, 80 patients were transferred to accommodation at Ford House, but the medical and nursing care of the patients still continues the responsibility of the City Hospital.



## ANNUAL PATIENTS STATISTICS—1939.

	<i>Year ending</i> 31/12/37	<i>Year ending</i> 31/12/38	<i>Year ending</i> 31/12/39
Admissions ... ..	4173	4301	3549
Births ... ..	453	482	437
	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	4626	4783	3986
Discharges ... ..	3909	4165	3591
Deaths ... ..	714	644	576
	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	4623	4809	4167
Patient days ...	198,877	194,022	158,139
Daily average beds occupied ... ..	528	513	417
Highest number ...	583	562	548
Lowest number ...	509	449	229
Average stay ... ..	42.99 days	40.3 days	37.9 days

## REPORT OF THE SENIOR ASSISTANT PORT MEDICAL OFFICER.

**Passenger Traffic.** Aliens passing through the Port totalled 8,604, this figure being made up in the main part by American tourists.

**Cargo Traffic.** *Coastwise.* Coastwise cargo traffic consists largely of transhipped general cargoes from London, Liverpool and Glasgow, coal from the North-East ports, and coal and general goods from the Bristol Channel ports.

*Foreign.* The foreign trade remained much the same as in previous years. Vessels arriving from infected ports were given immediate attention by officers of this Department.

**Medical Work under the Alien Order, 1920.** The number of aliens landed at the port during the year was 8,604, in addition to 320 alien seamen, all of whom were medically examined or inspected ; 83 were subjected to detailed examination for various reasons, but it was not found necessary to refuse permission to land in any case.

**Measures against Rodents.** The measures taken remain unchanged. Plague precautions were carried out in 31 vessels arriving from plague-infected or suspected ports and suitable measures taken to prevent rats leaving or gaining access to the ships.

Twenty-eight Deratisation Exemption Certificates and one Non-Exemption Certificate were issued. In one case a month's extension was granted, and the ship was allowed to proceed to its next port of loading on condition that a Certificate was obtained there. In this exception the appropriate Authority was notified.

**Foodstuffs.** A systematic inspection of foodstuffs landed at the port resulted in 615 vessels being visited in this connection, and nearly 47 tons of foodstuffs were dealt with as being unfit for human consumption.

## REPORT OF THE SENIOR SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER.

### ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEDICAL, DENTAL AND CLEANLINESS INSPECTIONS.

The arrangements for medical, dental and cleanliness inspections remained as described in previous Reports until the commencement of the war.

As soon as the schools reopened after the commencement of the war, the whole of the usual inspections were resumed within a few weeks, and before the end of the year were being continued as they were before the war.

## ARRANGEMENTS FOR TREATMENT.

The general arrangements for treatment remained as described in previous Reports except as stated below.

*Additional Clinic.*—On April 1st, 1939, a new medical inspection and minor ailment clinic was started at the Honicknowle Junior Mixed and Infants' School, for the area added to the City as a result of the Borough Extension. A Nurse attends for five afternoon sessions a week, and a Doctor for one session.

*Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic and Tonsil and Adenoid Operations.*—During the year the Board of Education recommended that all children considered by the Assistant School Medical Officers to require operative treatment of tonsils and adenoids should be seen by the Authority's Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist for a final decision whether or not operation was necessary.

The Board also recommended that children who have developed aural or naso-pharyngeal complications during the course of infectious disease whilst in the Council's Isolation Hospital should be seen on discharge by the Authority's Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist.

Both these recommendations were put into effect during the year and are working satisfactorily.

*City Extension.*—On April 1st, 1939, by the extension of the City boundaries, four more schools were brought within the area of the City and 788 children of school age. The additional clinic at Honicknowle School was therefore started to serve this area and these schools, and medical and nursing supervision was provided by rearrangement of the duties of the various members of the staff from April 1st, 1939, as described above.

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